

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. A method for providing a request to a portlet wherein the portlet can render itself in a graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:

mapping the request to a control tree wherein the control tree is a logical representation of the GUI and wherein the control tree includes a set of controls which are related hierarchically to one another;

advancing the control tree through at least one life cycle stage based on the request, wherein the control tree includes a portlet control that represents the portlet; and

providing the request to a portlet container, wherein the providing can be performed by the portlet control.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating the control tree from a factory based on the request.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating a response wherein the response can be used to render at least a portion of the GUI.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein the step of generating a control tree from the factory comprises:

creating a metadata representation of a control tree; and

generating a class to construct the control tree based on the metadata representation.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the request is a hypertext transfer protocol request (HTTP); and

the request originates from a web browser.

6. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

providing the response to a web browser.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the control tree is driven through the at least one lifecycle stage by an interchangeable lifecycle component.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein:
each one of the set of controls can have an interchangeable persistence mechanism.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein:
each one of the set of controls can render itself according to a theme.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein:
each one of the set of controls can communicate with another one of the set of controls.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein:
one of the set of controls can advance through the at least one lifecycle stage in parallel with another of the at least one controls.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the at least one lifecycle stage is one of: init, load state, create child controls, load, raise events, pre-render, render, save state, unload and dispose.
13. The method of claim 3 wherein:
the response is an hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) response.
14. The method of claim 1 wherein:
controls can raise events and respond to events.
15. The method of claim 1 wherein:
each one of the set of controls can be one of: Book, Page, Window, Menu, Layout, Portlet, Theme, Placeholder, Shell, LookAndFeel, Desktop, Body, Footer, Header, Head, Titlebar, ToggleButton, TreeView, TreeViewWithRadioButtons.

16. A method for providing a request to a portlet wherein the portlet can render itself in a portal graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:

mapping the request to a control tree wherein the control tree is a logical representation of the GUI and wherein the control tree includes a set of controls which are related hierarchically to one another;

advancing the control tree through at least one life cycle stage based on the request, wherein the control tree includes a portlet control that represents the portlet;

providing the request to a portlet container, wherein the providing can be performed by the portlet control; and

generating a response wherein the response can be used to render at least a portion of the GUI.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

generating the control tree from a factory based on the request.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of generating a control tree from the factory comprises:

creating a metadata representation of a control tree; and

generating a class to construct the control tree based on the metadata representation.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein:

the request is a hypertext transfer protocol request (HTTP); and

the request originates from a web browser.

20. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

providing the response to a web browser.

21. The method of claim 16 wherein:

the control tree is driven through the at least one lifecycle stage by an interchangeable lifecycle component.

22. The method of claim 16 wherein:

each one of the set of controls can have an interchangeable persistence mechanism.

23. The method of claim 16 wherein:
each one of the set of controls can render itself according to a theme.
24. The method of claim 16 wherein:
each one of the set of controls can communicate with another one of the set of controls.
25. The method of claim 16 wherein:
one of the set of controls can advance through the at least one lifecycle stage in parallel with another of the at least one controls.
26. The method of claim 16 wherein:
the at least one lifecycle stage is one of: init, load state, create child controls, load, raise events, pre-render, render, save state, unload and dispose.
27. The method of claim 16 wherein:
the response is an hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) response.
28. The method of claim 16 wherein:
controls can raise events and respond to events.
29. The method of claim 16 wherein:
each one of the set of controls can be one of: Book, Page, Window, Menu, Layout, Portlet, Theme, Placeholder, Shell, LookAndFeel, Desktop, Body, Footer, Header, Head, Titlebar, ToggleButton, TreeView, TreeViewWithRadioButtons.
30. A system for providing a request to a portlet wherein the portlet can render itself in a graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:
a first container operable to map the request to a control tree factory;
the control tree factory operable to generate a control tree based on the request wherein the control tree can include at least one portlet control;

a lifecycle driver operable to drive the control tree through at least one life cycle stage;

a portlet container operable to accept the request from the at least one portlet control and provide the request to the portlet.

31. The system of claim 30 wherein:

the portlet is capable of generating a response and wherein the response can be used to render at least a portion of the GUI.

32. The system of claim 30 wherein:

the request is a hypertext transfer protocol request (HTTP); and
the request originates from a web browser.

33. The system of claim 31 wherein:

the response can be provided to a web browser.

34. The system of claim 30 wherein:

the at least one portlet control has an interchangeable persistence mechanism.

35. The system of claim 30 wherein:

the at least one portlet control can render itself according to a theme.

36. The system of claim 30 wherein:

each one of the at least one portlet controls can communicate with another one of the at least one portlet controls.

37. The system of claim 16 wherein:

one of the at least one portlet controls can advance through the at least one lifecycle stage in parallel with another of the at least one portlet controls.

38. The system of claim 30 wherein:

the at least one lifecycle stage is one of: init, load state, create child controls, load, raise events, pre-render, render, save state, unload and dispose.

39. The system of claim 31 wherein:
the response is an hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) response.
40. The system of claim 30 wherein:
the at least one portlet control can raise events and respond to events.
41. A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a processor cause a system to:
map a request to a control tree wherein the control tree is a logical representation of a graphical user interface (GUI) and wherein the control tree includes a set of controls which are related hierarchically to one another;
advance the control tree through at least one life cycle stage based on the request, wherein the control tree includes a portlet control that represents a portlet;
and
provide the request to a portlet container, wherein the providing can be performed by the portlet control.
42. The machine readable medium of claim 41, further comprising instructions that when executed cause the system to:
generate the control tree from a factory based on the request.
43. The machine readable medium of claim 41, further comprising instructions that when executed cause the system to:
generate a response wherein the response can be used to render at least a portion of the GUI.
44. The machine readable medium of claim 42, further comprising instructions that when executed cause the system to:
create a metadata representation of a control tree; and
generate a class to construct the control tree based on the metadata representation.
45. The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein:
the request is a hypertext transfer protocol request (HTTP); and

the request originates from a web browser.

46. The machine readable medium of claim 43, further comprising instructions that when executed cause the system to:

provide the response to a web browser.

47. The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein:

the control tree is driven through the at least one lifecycle stage by an interchangeable lifecycle component.

48. The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein:

each one of the set of controls can have an interchangeable persistence mechanism.

49. The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein:

each one of the set of controls can render itself according to a theme.

50. The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein:

each one of the set of controls can communicate with another one of the set of controls.

51. The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein:

one of the set of controls can advance through the at least one lifecycle stage in parallel with another of the at least one controls.

52. The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein:

the at least one lifecycle stage is one of: init, load state, create child controls, load, raise events, pre-render, render, save state, unload and dispose.

53. The machine readable medium of claim 43 wherein:

the response is an hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) response.

54. The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein:

controls can raise events and respond to events.

55. The machine readable medium of claim 41 wherein:

each one of the set of controls can be one of: Book, Page, Window, Menu, Layout, Portlet, Theme, Placeholder, Shell, LookAndFeel, Desktop, Body, Footer, Header, Head, Titlebar, ToggleButton, TreeView, TreeViewWithRadioButtons.

56. A computer data signal embodied in a transmission medium, comprising:

a code segment including instructions to map a request to a control tree wherein the control tree is a logical representation of a graphical user interface (GUI) and wherein the control tree includes a set of controls which are related hierarchically to one another;

a code segment including instructions to advance the control tree through at least one life cycle stage based on the request, wherein the control tree includes a portlet control that represents a portlet; and

a code segment including instructions to provide the request to a portlet container, wherein the providing can be performed by the portlet control.

57. A system comprising:

a means for mapping the request to a control tree wherein the control tree is a logical representation of the GUI and wherein the control tree includes a set of controls which are related hierarchically to one another;

a means for advancing the control tree through at least one life cycle stage based on the request, wherein the control tree includes a portlet control that represents the portlet; and

a means for providing the request to a portlet container, wherein the providing can be performed by the portlet control.